

REMARKS

Claims 4-7 and 16-24 are cancelled. Claims 1-3 and 8-15 are amended. Claims 25-35 are added. Claims 1-3, 8-15 and 25-35 are pending in the application. The amendments to the claims as indicated herein do not add any new matter to this application. Each issue raised in the Office Action mailed December 8, 2009 is addressed hereinafter.

I. ISSUES NOT RELATED TO PRIOR ART

A. CLAIM 24

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The rejection is moot, as Claim 24 is cancelled.

B. CLAIMS 25-35 – NEW CLAIMS

New Claims 25-35 are computer-readable storage medium claims that recite features similar to present Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-15, respectively.

II. ISSUES RELATING TO PRIOR ART

A. CLAIMS 1, 8 AND 12-15

Claim 1 incorporates Claims 5, 6 and 7.

Claim 8 depends from Claim 1 instead of cancelled Claim 6.

Claims 12-15 depends from Claim 1 instead of cancelled Claim 5.

B. CLAIM 7 – ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 7, and intervening Claims 5 and 6, are incorporated into independent Claim 1. Accordingly, present Claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

C. CLAIMS 1-3, 5, 6, 8-14, 16 AND 18-21 - DELL, HELGREN, DOMINI AND AMES

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-14, 16 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kyon Holman (Dell OpenManage Network Manager, Nov. 17, 2003) in view of Helgren et al (US Patent 7,051,243 B2) in further view of Domini et al (US Patent

6,085,2063) and in further view of Ames et al (US Patent 6,151,567). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Present Claim 1 includes the features of Claim 7, and intervening Claims 5 and 6, indicated allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Independent Claim 25 recites similar, although not identical, features as Claim 1 and is in condition for allowance for, at least, the same reasons as Claim 1.

All pending dependent claims depend, directly or indirectly, from Claims 1 and 25 discussed above and includes, by dependency, the features identified above that distinguish the Claim 1 and 25 from the cited references. Therefore, all dependent claims are in condition for allowance for the same reasons as stated above for Claims 1 and 25 from which they depend.

D. CLAIM 15 – DELL, HELGREN, DOMINI, AMES AND ANDRADE

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Dell in view of Helgren in further view of Domini in further view of Ames in further view of Andrade et al (US Patent 7,024,660). The rejection is moot, as Claim 15 is cancelled.

E. CLAIMS 17 AND 22 – DELL, HELGREN, DOMINI, AMES, ANDRADE, HARDIE

Claims 17 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Dell in view of Helgren in further view of Domini in further view of Ames in further view of Andrade et al and in further view of Hardie ("Computer Security Audit Checklist, 2003). The rejection is moot, as Claims 17 and 22 are cancelled.

III. CONCLUSIONS & MISCELLANEOUS

For the reasons set forth above, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone or e-mail relating to any issue that would advance examination of the present application.

A petition for extension of time, to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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